

# The Short Circuit

October 1982



Vol. 22, No. 3

## IBEW Delegates Urged To Defend Gains at Polls Per Capita To Increase By \$1

Los Angeles — A strong demonstration of union solidarity in the November elections is essential if organized labor is to preserve the gains it has made over the past 50 years, delegates to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers were told.

International President Charles H. Pillard warned that virtually every economic and social program beneficial to workers "is under attack from the Administration that has given new life to the extremists of the right — the very same forces that organized labor threw out of government 50 years ago."

Pillard cited the concerted efforts of the Reagan Administration and its conservative allies to undermine the wage protections of the Davis-Bacon Act, weaken occupational safety and health law, undercut unemployment compensation as millions of jobless seek work, and scuttle programs for retirees and the elderly.

But the primary target of the right wing is to destroy the labor movement, he stressed, "because they know that we are the driving force behind social progress, that we believe that people should share in the wealth that is made possible by their talents and skills."

Victory in November for labor-endorsed candidates will help preserve union rights, secure hard-won protections and widen opportunities for needed job-creating legislation, Pillard told the Union's 32nd Quadrennial Convention.

Speaker after speaker stressed the need to turn out a heavy vote of union members and their families on November 2.

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland said in a

omics yearn for work, the nation's bridges, streets, sewers, hospitals, ports and other public facilities are deteriorating, Kirkland pointed out.

"We are not calling for government handouts to welfare chiselers or meaningless make-work programs," he stressed. "We are calling for government programs to put people back to work that desperately needs to be done."

Reagan's policies also came under heavy fire from Senator Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), Governor Edmund G. Brown, National COPE Director John Perkins, President Robert A. Georgine of the AFL-CIO Building & Construction Trades Department, and President Paul Burnsky of the Metal Trades Department.

In convention action, the 3,300 delegates voted a \$1 increase in monthly per capita payments, which will rise to \$5 effective January 1, 1983.

Delegates also reelected Pillard, Secretary Ralph A. Leigon and Treasurer Thomas P. VanArsdale to new four-year terms in addition to relaxing the union's age 65 mandatory retirement rule for IBEW officers.

The amended bylaw which Local 1974 supported permits incumbent officers to complete terms after turning 65. Pillard, now 64, was elected to a new term over C. R. Delgado of Galveston, Tex., by a vote of 548,384 to 64,292. Leigon and VanArsdale were reelected without opposition.

Eleven of the 12 district vice presidents were reelected without opposition, as was the eight-member executive council. In the only contested race — for the eighth district vice presidency — Jon F. Walters defeated incumbent Larry Farnam. The district comprises Colorado, Montana, Utah and Wyoming.

## Em-3 Council To Meet In Columbus, Ohio Bargaining Preparation No. 1 Priority

OMAHA — The IBEW EM-3 Council will hold its regular semi-annual conference in Columbus, Ohio, the week of October 18.

In a letter to all affiliated unions, EM-3 Council President P. Gino requested that delegates be prepared to discuss key issues to be bargained both locally and at the National Bargaining Table.

In dealing with Western Electric Company in the forthcoming 1983 negotiations, President Gino reminded the local union presidents that both the IBEW and EM-3 Council are "not of a mind to concede anything."

"AT&T and its subsidiaries have been producing record-breaking profits during our country's current economic slump. Western Electric employees are not overpaid and our industry is not in economic difficulty."

Gino stressed, "and this should be reflected in the 1983 contract settlement."

While speaking on the subject of the Western Electric negotiations, International President Pillard observed that recent negotiated settlements in the electronic industry consisted of progressive negotiations and resulted in improved standards of living in these IBEW represented industries. The IBEW had no problems with Westinghouse, General Electric and GTE. Our negotiations included no concessions and I expect the Western Electric pact to follow this pattern."

In a recent correspondence to the Local Union 1974 membership, Local Union President Michael D. Quinlan noted that Western Electric was getting its corporate crying towel out along with other industries and setting the stage for what they hoped to be 1983 concession bargaining.

"Western Electric Company should understand," Quinlan reviewed, "that there is a difference of night and day between the plight of the automotive and steel manufacturers and Western Elec-

President Quinlan requested Vice-President and Grievance Coordinator Harlan H. Clark to begin preparations for local negotiations.

"With his vast experience on the last six local negotiating teams, Vice-President Clark is keenly aware that careful preparations is the key to successful collective bargaining."

"Whitey knows that it not only makes the negotiating team's job easier, but it also increases the union's chances of attaining its contract goals," President Quinlan stated.

"Local Western Electric management's announced intention of getting back many of the hard-won gains of the past four negotiations is a cause of deep concern to the local union administration," Vice-President Clark observed. "I certainly hope the company doesn't underestimate the strong resolve of this local union's administration and membership to maintain and improve current conditions of employment."

According to Em-3 Council President P. Gino, commencing bargaining preparations some seven months prior to the actual start of negotiations is not at all unusual.

"The essential component of a negotiation success is preparation," Gino related.

When one looks at the un-



AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland said in a convention address that President Reagan will be seeking a vote of confidence for his policies in November even as 10.8 million jobless Americans — victims of Reaganomics — search for nonexistent jobs.

Kirkland observed that in preaching the virtues of supply-side economics, Reagan promised that huge tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy would produce new investment and jobs along with a resurgence of economic growth.

And while the millions of victims of Reagan

The district comprises Colorado, Montana, Utah and Wyoming.

Delegates also adopted an "outsider" rule which prohibits candidates for union office from soliciting or accepting campaign contributions from nonmembers of the IBEW.

The convention voted to increase salaries of officers and senior representatives, their first raise since 1978.

Additionally, in future years, officers' salaries will be adjusted annually — keyed to 75 percent of the wage increases negotiated for IBEW members.



During a break in the QWL Conference, Em-3 Council President Gino, IBEW Representative Stander, Local Union 1974 President Quinlan, and Ed Brobst, left to right.

## National Quality Work Life Committee Meets in Omaha

### Local QWL Program Expands

OMAHA — The IBEW and Western Electric Company Quality Work Life committee selected Omaha as the site for their 1982 Annual Meeting.

Representing the IBEW Union was E.M.-3 Council President, P. Gino; Vice-President M. D. Quinlan; Secretary E. Brobst and International Representative R. Stander.

Representing the Western Electric Company was J. Dowdall; A. Davis; R. Kempen and C. Kroen.

Among the major items on the two-day agenda was review and discussion of facilitators, training programs and progress of the Quality Work Life programs throughout all Western Electric plants represented by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Locally, the Quality Work Life program at the Omaha Works currently has six active circles throughout the 30 building shops.

The oldest and first circle at the Omaha Works, Circle No. 1, con-

sists of employees from Dept. 312, Merchandising; Circle 2, Dept. 437, Molding; Circle 3, Dept. 435, 710 Connector Assembly; Circle 4, Dept. 437, Sheet Metal Shop;

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## Union Meeting Tonight \$100 Drawing

### Candidate List

The following list of political aspirants has the labor endorsement of Local Union 1974, IBEW:

**Governor** — Bob Kerrey.

**Second District Congress** — Richard Fellman.

**Legislature:** Sixth District, Peter Hoagland; Eighth District, Vard Johnson; Tenth District, James Beutel; Twelfth District, Gerald Koch; Fourteenth District, Tom Doyle; Twentieth District, Glenn Goodrich.

**County Board** — Mike Albert, William Green, Steve Rosenblatt.

**Metro Tech** — Ray Powers.

**MUD** — Ray Simon.

**OPPD** — Gene Spence.

**Board of Regents** — Second District, Nancy Hoch; Eighth District, James Moylan.

**Board of Education** — District 1, June Blair; District 3, Lawrence McVoy; District 9, Frank Bogard; District 11, Barbara Dutiel.

**Sheriff** — Rex Gruber.

**County Treasurer** — Sam Howell.

**County Attorney** — Donald Knowles.

**Sarpy County Labor-Endorsed Candidates Register of Deeds** — Carl Hibbeler.

**County Attorney** — Pat Kelley.

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of right and day between the plight of the automotive and steel manufacturers and Western Electric. Any company demands for concessions in order to maintain profits and viability will be met with union demands for the company to open their books and records to show proof of need."

"Concession bargaining," Quinlan concluded, "simply because many of the unions are doing it, is out of the question."

On the local negotiating scene,

negotiation success is preparation," Gino related.

When one looks at the unbelievable and numerous statistics that must be reviewed, wage and fringe benefits paid to members of other industries, management structures and relationships with union and employees, dozens of contracts that must be read and analyzed just to name a few, seven months doesn't seem long enough," Gino concluded.



From left to right, speaking before the Union representatives, are Vice-President Whitey Clark, Workmen's Compensation Attorney James Coe, and Local Union 1974 President Michael D. Quinlan.

## Representatives' Meeting

OMAHA — At a Union representatives' meeting held in March of this year, President Quinlan requested attorney James Coe to speak to the assembled representatives of Local Union 1974 about Workmen's Compensation.

Coe apprised the representatives on the recent changes in the Workmen Compensation laws and explained the workers' rights under those laws.

A lot of people who are hurt on the job," Coe revealed, "don't have to be treated at the Western Electric Medical Department. According to state law, all the injured worker has to do it check into medical, explain the injury, and if he or she wants to, get medical treatment elsewhere. It is a good law, because if you don't have confidence in your medical department, you can reject their services."

*It's Your Duty . . .*

## Vote November 2nd



## A Message From the

# Vice- President's Desk

By Harlan "Whitey" Clark



As President of the Nebraska Council of Industrial Unions, I will be attending the 15th Constitutional Convention of the Industrial Union Department AFL-CIO to be held in Detroit, Michigan, October 13 and 14.

One of the things I will be pursuing is to get copies of all the recent industrial union contract settlements because, as you are all aware, our local and all other locals in the EM-3 Council will be entering into what we know to be the toughest negotiations ever experienced by our Local Union, and we must be prepared more now than ever before.

Another item we need to achieve involves Human Rights. Even though the states failed to ratify ERA, much work has to be done in the area of rights — not just for one segment of our society, but for all segments including women, men, minorities, and even International Trade Unionist rights, such as those that affect our Polish brothers and sisters in their solidarity cause.

I hope to have further reports on these important items after I return from my meetings in Detroit.

Some recent grievance settlements are very important to you, as well as to everyone working for AT&T.

## The View from Earth

**N**EARLY 11 MILLION American workers are unemployed, enough to form an unbroken line stretching 4,000 miles—from Los Angeles to New York and almost back to the Mississippi.

This is not what President Reagan promised us when he campaigned two years ago.

When he debated President Carter, he told the American people: "I don't believe the alternative to inflation is recession."

His Republican platform said: "We specifically reject the Carter doctrine that inflation can be reduced only by throwing people out of work."

A year later, when unemployment surged to 8.4 percent, the White House press secretary said: "This is the price you have to pay for bringing down inflation."

We recently used our new national grievance procedure in two trial cases that we had filed in Omaha. The Company nationwide had a policy that dictated that if you were on half pay benefits and the Company medical organization released you to work light duty or four hours a day, that would be all the pay you would receive. We said that the employee should receive four hours pay for working and half pay benefits for the other four hours.

The case was settled in our favor and will amount to millions of dollars in benefit pay to the entire Union family nationwide.

Case No. 82-01 involved a surplus employee being downgraded when the employee was qualified to perform another job at the present grade level.

Case No. 82-06, 82-07 and 82-10 involved three employees who were denied payments for death in their immediate families. Employees paid all monies lost.

Case No. 82-08 was settled in favor of employee. This case involved a memorandum improperly issued.

Case No. 82-19 involved an employee that was moved off the job and downgraded because the employee was alleged to be accident prone. This employee was returned to the job and paid all monies lost.

Case No. 82-28 and 82-31 involved two employees who would not be recalled from layoff due to alleged bad attendance. These cases were settled in favor of the employees and they will be given recall rights in line with their seniority.

Bob Alberts and John Schwenck recently settled verbally on overtime grievance in Dept. 439 that amounted to \$367 in back pay. Well done!

Also, well done to Tom Connor in resolving movement of personnel cases at the verbal levels in favor of the employees involved.

There are many other cases settled by many of the representatives before they even get to the written stages that are too numerous to report on; so to all of you, well done!

## Outpatient at Clarkson Hospital

Western Electric employees requiring outpatient hospital services for accidental emergency situations, outpatient laboratory testing or diagnostic x-rays, are cautioned that there may be difficulties in getting the bills paid in a timely manner if they go to Clarkson Hospital in Omaha.

We recently learned that Clarkson Hospital refuses to bill the above outpatient services directly to the various insurance carriers that provide the coverage for employees throughout the Omaha area.

According to Clarkson Hospital officials, their billing system

## Fellman Deserves Labor's Support



## Election Message

By COPE Director  
John Sutej

In times like these, when numerous sensitive issues are facing us, it is so easy to feel the frustration that makes you think you have no control over your life. Getting ahead hardly crosses your mind because maintaining what you have is difficult enough.

Let me remind you that extreme rightwing anti-unionism sows its seeds in times like this. It's just waiting for you to throw up your hands in disgust and take the attitude that "I don't care any more" or "my vote doesn't matter anyhow." It's an uphill battle now, but sticking together gives us a winning chance. Falling apart gives us no chance at all!!!

Now, more than ever, your vote and your demonstration of unity with your brothers and sisters of the Free Trade Union Movement is of paramount importance. We cannot force you to vote or tell you whom to vote for. We can only make recommendations based on experience with the candidates and how they feel about issues that affect our jobs, our standards, and all that we have gained for ourselves.

So please, help yourself and your family by casting your ballot on November 2, because I'm asking you, "If you don't count yourself, who the heck will?"





White House press secretary said: "This is the price you have to pay for bringing down inflation."

**WHY DIDN'T** Mr. Reagan tell us about this "price" during his campaign?

Instead he preached the virtues of "supply-side" economics. He promised that huge tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy would produce new investment in plant and equipment, new jobs, and a resurgence of economic growth.

Well, the corporations got their tax breaks, and last week the Commerce Dept. reported that business investment in plant and equipment will drop 4.4 percent this year—the first such decline since 1975.

What went wrong?

According to the Secretary of Commerce, "The business tax cuts were too large and so, rather than stimulating capital spending, they depressed it."

He went on to predict an investment upturn with "faster growth in consumer spending."

Are we to understand that the Administration is flip-flopping from "supply-side" economics to "demand-side" economics?

**I WOULD LIKE** to think that the Secretary has been reading the AFL-CIO's alternative economic program. Or perhaps he is on his way to the famous woodshed where David Stockman was spanked for publicly admitting the bankruptcy of the Administration's supply-side theories.

But if the President has any doubts about his program, he is keeping them to himself as he hits the campaign trail pleading for patience and promising pie in the sky in the sweet bye and bye.

Campaigning in Kansas last week, the President said, "Yes, recovery has been sighted."

I don't know what telescope he is using, or in what direction it is pointed, but here on Planet Earth, we see something different.

—*AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Convention, Sept. 14, 1982.*



erage for employees throughout the Omaha area.

According to Clarkson Hospital officials, their billing system is not set up to bill directly to insurance carriers, such as Mutual of Omaha, Travelers, Prudential, for example, but rather to the individual patient who then must mail the bill to the insurance carrier. Presumably, Clarkson Hospital does not want to be bothered by dealing directly with the insurance carrier.

This doesn't make sense to us, but according to Clarkson Hospital it has been their policy for the past many years and they're unwilling to change that system to a direct billing to the various insurance carriers.

In order to avoid any delays in the payment of **outpatient** services, employees should consider the possibility of alternative hospitals in the Omaha area. To our knowledge, Clarkson is the only hospital with this billing restriction.

**Be an Active Member  
of Your Union —  
Attend Union  
Meetings**

## Las Vegas Night

Mark the date on your calendar — October 22. The Third Annual Local Union 1974 Las Vegas Night will take place at the Union Hall.

The price to get in is \$6, and for your pleasure, all the free beer and chow you can possibly consume, plus unlimited gambling fare.

We have Black Jack, Craps, Poker, Pickles, and other games of chance to put a winning skip in your step and speed up the beat of your heart.

The thrill-a-thon starts at 8 p.m. Friday, October 22, and extends into the wee hours of your imagination.

Plan to attend; you'll have a ball!



Fellman — This election in the Second Congressional District boils down to a referendum of the Reagan economic policies, which my opponent, Hal Daub, has supported 100%.

I believe that the voters in the Second Congressional District of Nebraska will agree with me during this election and give the current administration a resounding "F" for Failure.

## Letter from Former LU 1974 Member

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Local Union 1974:

I received the February, 1982, "Short Circuit" and I want to thank you very much.

Don't let down your guard, because if you do, you will pay for it later.

The union movement is a very noble movement; be proud of your part in it.

Remember, that each one of us alone is not as strong as we would like to be. Let us join together for strength and justice.

I want each of you to know what union membership has meant to me.

Being a union member has helped me hold my head up and be proud of what I am doing. Also, when I walk into a room, I can feel as good as anyone there, but not better.

I keep saying "us" as if I were still a member of Local Union 1974. In my heart I still am and always will be.

Paul H. Fitzgerald

## THE SHORT CIRCUIT

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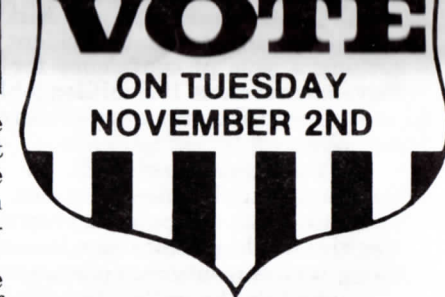
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## Royko: This Country Needs A King

Mike Royko, a columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times, said it best in one of his daily articles when he said what this country really needs is a king.

Not a genuine king, ruling and giving orders. We need a figurehead of a king — smiling, looking attractive and reassuring, making stirring speeches, but not having any genuine authority.

He could appear regularly on the 10 o'clock news, telling us what a great country we have and what salt-of-the-earth folks we are, and send us to bed feeling good.

He could get on and off airplanes, wave at TV cameras, grin, chuckle, utter a few comfortable clichés, and make the nation's little old ladies feel that all is well in the land.

"The king of person I have in mind," Royko explains, "is someone like President Ronald Reagan. In fact, the person I have in mind is Ronald Reagan."

It's obvious that when we elected Ronald Reagan president, he was the right man for the right job at the right time.

The only problem is, the right job for Reagan is not a job that is allowed by the Constitution.

Reagan was elected because he looked good, sounded good and said things that most people wanted to hear.

Now, there is a lot to be said for looking good, sounding good and saying things that most people want to hear.

These qualities are useful to car salesmen, TV talk show hosts and beauty contest winners.

But Reagan was elected to the office of president, Royko continues to elaborate, a position that requires qualities more substantial than looking good and sounding good — qualities such as knowledge and judgment.

He came in preaching an economic philosophy that has become known as "Reaganomics." It was the result of many years spent as a mediocre show-biz figure listening to rich, crotchety Republicans yearning for a return to the good old days.

And in only a year and a half, Reaganomics has brought us closer to the good old days of Herbert Hoover than any sane person would want to be.

Census figures show that we now have more people below the poverty level — a family of four living on \$178 or less a week — than at any time since 1967.

Entire industries, such as housing, automaking, and savings and loans, are on the brink of going under.

A few years ago, the only time the word "depression" was used was when referring to the past. Now you can't read the business pages without encountering an economist or businessman using the same word to refer to the present or the near future.

We see federal cheese giveaways to the poor. We see people standing in line for free bags of groceries. More and more people are out of work.

Even those who aren't unemployed or below the poverty level are feeling the crunch.

They're getting their local real estate tax bills now. And as jolting as the 50, 100 and 200 percent increases are, they're just a preview of coming attractions.

When Reaganomics achieves its goal of stripping cities and states of federal funds, local taxes will be staggering.

## GOP Plans Cuts in Social Security After Election Day — Unless They Get a Message

President Reagan and his right-wing allies in Congress seem to think that Social Security and Medicare are fair game for their "slash and burn" policies. The nation's retirees, who know firsthand how much they depend on these life-support programs, have protested vigorously—and effectively. They have stopped many of the worst Reagan proposals in their tracks.

### Loss of Faith Among Young Americans

Unfortunately, in sounding false alarms about Social Security's financing, Reagan has caused a loss of faith among the nation's young workers about federal retirement programs. Many now feel they will never receive the Social Security and Medicare benefits they are paying for, so they aren't protesting alongside the elderly.

Cuts in Social Security and Medicare affect all Americans, young and old. If your parents or elderly dependents are deprived of their full benefits, who will make sure they don't suffer? You, of course.

### Social Security: More Than Just a Pension

Social Security is more than a pension for your retirement years. It provides important safeguards for families in their working years:

- It's also a disability insurance program, helping workers and their families if the breadwinner suffers injury and can no longer continue gainful employment.
- It's a life insurance program, providing income for surviving spouses and young children if the breadwinner dies.
- It's a health insurance program, helping retirees and the disabled meet skyrocketing hospital and medical bills.

### The Politics of Cutting Social Security

1. President Reagan and right-wing members of Congress have never shown much support for Social Security and Medicare.
2. Only the threat of retaliation by angry voters has prevented Congress from making cuts in these programs even deeper than they already have.

## QWL

Continued from page 1

Circle 5, Dept. 445, B-Cable Terminal and 80 Type Cabinet Assembly, and Circle 6, Dept. 283, Cordage Tinsel Roll.

Recent approval has been given by joint steering committees to expand Quality Work Life programs into the 50 building cable shops.

It is expected within the next six weeks to have joint information sessions for both cable shop union representatives and supervisory personnel on the expansion of these Quality Work Life programs into cable. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss the principles, procedures and parameters of the local Omaha Works Quality Work Life programs.

Subsequent to these joint meetings, Quality Work Life Circle

### 3. That's why Social Security and Medicare face grave danger after Election Day 1982.

#### Vote on November 2 for a Better Congress

Make sure now that you are registered to vote, and take care on Nov. 2 to vote for those who have voted to save Social Security and Medicare, and against those who have rubber-stamped the Reagan budget cuts.

### Social Security: Myth vs. Fact

**MYTH:** Social Security is going broke.

**FACT:** The alarm bells sounded by the Reagan Administration are meant only to frighten the public into accepting cuts in their Social Security benefits. Actually, Social Security faces a short-term problem, ironically, caused in part by the Reagan recession which has thrown more than 2 million Americans out of work, stopping their payments into the system.

The problem can be solved by:

1) renewing the authority to transfer money among the three Social Security trust funds (this authority is due to expire at the end of 1982), and

2) if necessary, borrowing from general federal revenues, as is currently being done for unemployment compensation. Preferably, actual contributions should be made from general revenues, as is done in other Western industrialized countries.

**MYTH:** President Reagan won't cut Social Security benefits.

**FACT:** President Reagan already has cut Social Security benefits by \$18 billion over the next five years. And he has repeatedly called for much deeper cuts—as much as \$82 billion over five years—only to be slapped down by Congress.

**MYTH:** Social Security is only an income supplement for the elderly.

**FACT:** Social Security is the No. 1 source of income for the elderly, with private pensions and savings far behind. Only 28 percent of the elderly have a private pension in addition to Social Security. For one retiree in four, Social Security provides 90 percent of their income.

## Coors Beer Slates Layoffs As Sales Continue to Skid

Golden, Colo.—Coors brewery, drained by slumping sales and profits, announced plans to lay off 500 of its 7,000 workers by Oct. 1. Coors beer has been on the AFL-CIO boycott list since April 1977 when members of Directly Affiliated Local Union 366 went on strike.

The company reported back-to-back declines in sales for the first and second quarters of 1982 even though Coors sharply increased its advertising budget last year. In July, Coors disclosed that sales for the second quarter dropped 13 percent from the year-ago quarter.

Except for 1980, Coors sales volume has been below pre-strike levels. But the company's profits have been flat since 1976, the year before the strike. Last year, net income skidded to \$51.9 million, compared with \$76.4 million in 1976.

During the past year, Coors abandoned plans to build a brewery in Harrisonburg, Va., a further indication of lagging sales.

## AT&T Proposes to Act as Clearinghouse For Stockholders of Its Divested Firms



of coming attractions.

When Reaganomics achieves its goal of stripping cities and states of federal funds, local taxes will be staggering.

Meanwhile, Columnist Royko reviews, Reaganomics rolls on. At the same time that Reagan is preaching to Congress about getting big government off the people's backs, he's talking about building more and more billion-dollar toys for the Pentagon.

In Washington, the pundits and other comic figures cry: "Do we have a foreign policy?"

In the rest of the country, the question is: "Is there a policy forus?"

So no matter how you look at it, Reagan has managed to goof things up in record time.

The economy is crashing; the rest of the world is going crazy and we can't do anything about it, and it is going to get worse before (or if) it gets better.

But Reagan shouldn't be blamed for any of this. All he has done is what he said he would do.

It was all there in his campaign speeches and his confused, meandering question-and-answer sessions with reporters who covered his campaigns.

Most of the best brains agreed that running a country this big, in a world this small, was the most demanding job there is. And anybody who tried it had to be smart and filled with a clear vision of the future, not an obsession with the past.

But along came Reagan with a chuckle, a grin, a wealth of simple-minded stories about his boyhood, and his country-club-green economic philosophy.

The more he talked, the more obvious it became that here was a guy who didn't know what the hell was going on. Not in America's desperate cities, not in foreign policy, not in economics, not in anything but his memories of life in Small Town USA Circa 1922.

But that was what people wanted to hear. It sounded good and he looked good. And that was what won their votes.

So it shows that there was a need in this country. We wanted that comforting figure, assuring us that everything would turn out all right because we, as Americans, are destiny's darlings.

And I suppose there's nothing wrong with that. With Cronkite retired, we probably did need a national Good Uncle Figure.

But we should also have a president who knows . . . that you can't spend billions on bombs, shove the middle class and poor deeper and deeper into financial misery, and wind up with a prosperous society.

So the answer is to have both.

We need a constitutional change that will permit us to have Reagan, or somebody like Reagan, as king — an English-style figurehead to tuck us in every night with a few encouraging words.

We also need somebody in charge who can understand that poverty, unemployment and interest rates that stun a loan shark are not what this country needs.

An American royal figure. Why not?

If anybody sneaked into his royal bedroom and sat on the edge of the bed, all he'd have to do is start talking economics, and the creep would panic and run.

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## VOTE NOVEMBER 2ND

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Works Quality Work Life programs.

Subsequent to these joint meetings, Quality Work Life Circles will be selected by the steering committee from volunteers from the cable shop.

Since the last Quality Work Life report, both Union and Company steering committees have undergone personnel changes. Currently representing Local Union 1974 are Michael D. Quinlan, President; Vice-President Whitey Clark; Recording Secretary Vern Larson and Executive Board Officer Marlene Wilson.

Representing the Company are Assistant Manager Gene Tingwald; Assistant Manager Bob Dunn; Assistant Manager Herb Rhodes and Assistant Manager Mark Foster.



### Domestic Content Bill Is One Step Closer to a Vote

The domestic content bill, H.R. 5133, cleared a major legislative hurdle as it was approved 25-16 by the House Energy and Commerce Committee (see vote, below left).

The content bill would require auto manufacturers who sell large quantities of vehicles in the United States—primarily Toyota and Datsun—to produce gradually increasing portions of the vehicles here. It would restore an estimated 700,000 jobs in auto production and supplier industries.

The content bill has been referred to the Ways and Means Committee, which began hearings last week. The AFL-CIO and UAW testified in strong support of this jobs legislation.

**WHAT YOUR CAN DO:** Urge your Representative to cosponsor and support H.R. 5133, the domestic content bill. Particularly important now are members of the Ways and Means Committee.

## AT&T Proposes to Act as Clearinghouse For Stockholders of Its Divested Firms

WASHINGTON—American Telephone & Telegraph Co.'s chairman, Charles L. Brown, said the company plans to make it "easy and inexpensive" for shareholders to redistribute their AT&T investment after the company is split into eight separate concerns.

Mr. Brown told a group of communications lawyers that AT&T wants to act as a clearinghouse for stockholders seeking to consolidate their new holdings once AT&T spins off its 22 local telephone companies into seven independent regional concerns as required by its recent antitrust settlement with the Justice Department. Rather than send holders certificates for their shares in the new companies, Mr. Brown said, AT&T will make it "quite easy for shareowners to decide where they want to put their money—whether they want to leave it as is or whether they want to concentrate in one or more of these companies." The number of shares a holder owns in the surviving AT&T will remain unchanged.

AT&T officials would send stockholders statements of their proportionate interest in each of the seven new companies, accompanied by a list of options to choose from, AT&T spokesman Pickard Wagner explained. Stockholders could use that list to instruct AT&T to consolidate their holdings in any number of combinations.

Mr. Brown said he was confident this arrangement wouldn't encourage shareowners to abandon the regional companies in favor of heavier investments in the surviving parent AT&T. AT&T will be free to enter lucrative unregulated computer-related businesses, while the regional companies' activities will be sharply limited. Mr. Brown said stock market "experts" have assured company officials that shareowners "tend to want to have properties in their own local areas."

This investment procedure and other details of the as-yet undisclosed divestiture

plan still must be approved by the Justice Department and a federal judge here. Mr. Brown said the company expects to make its divestiture plan public in November, three months earlier than the settlement requires.

Company officials also insisted yesterday that the plan won't be put into effect if the chief executive offices of the regional companies don't support it.

Mr. Brown told reporters later that AT&T devised the clearinghouse plan mainly as a service to its host of small investors, a great many of whom don't have a regular stockbroker or don't often engage in stock market trading. Nearly one million of AT&T's three million shareholders own 20 or fewer shares each. Another million shareholders own fewer than 100 shares.

AT&T officials said the company won't make markets in the stocks of the newly independent companies. The consent decree wouldn't permit that in any event, since the settlement bars AT&T from holding a stake in any of its former subsidiaries. Company officials said AT&T will simply make use of its computerized shareholder list to help streamline the assembly of buy and sell orders. The orders will be turned over to brokerage firms, which will execute the trades at prevailing market prices.

## Candidates

Continued from Page 1

### Sarpy County

**County Clerk**—Mary Cowger.  
**County Assessor** — Al Dvorak.

**County Treasurer** — Kathleen Ingram.

**County Surveyor** — Norm Whitney.

**Clerk of the District Court**—Charlene Marchand.

**County Commissioner, District 2** — Nancy Thompson.

**County Commissioner, District 5** — Leon Ruff.

### Iowa Candidates

**Governor** — Roxann Conlin.  
**Lieutenant Governor** — Bob Anderson.

**Congress** — Tom Harkin.  
**State Representatives** — Emil Pavich, Mike Gronstal, Georgia Sivers.



## 10 Reasons Why You Should Vote Initiative 300

By Dray Samuelson,  
Nebraska Farmers Union

Initiative 300 is the Constitutional Amendment to stop large corporative farms from buying huge tracts of Nebraska farmland. It was put on the Nebraska ballot by the hard work of a lot of farm organizations and labor organizations working together.

1. It will keep our food costs down. Remember what has happened to our gasoline prices the last 10 years and who has profited from the increase? It sure has not been the working man and woman. Let's not see the same thing happen with our food prices.
2. Almost every state in the Midlands has such a law. Wisconsin, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Missouri, Oklahoma and Kansas have all outlawed these giant corporations from buying farmland. Only Nebraska has not.
3. It will help halt the environmental damage being done in the Sandhills by corporations developing fragile land indiscriminately. Right now the ground water is being saturated with farm chemicals because of this development — water people have to drink.
4. It will make it easier for young farmers to get started in farming. This is important to us because of what will happen to our food prices if the giant corporations control our food production.
5. Because too often these giant corporations don't care for the soil, which all of us have an interest in. Just as you will take care of a house more if you own it than if you rent it, the same goes how farmers take care of their own soil.
6. Because Prudential Insu-



Three union members from Dept. 439 walk beside the LU 1974 float. From left to right, they are Sandy Ryder, Anne Grant, and Edie Borovac.



Sandy supervises while Edie helps Whitey.



Stringing chicken wire for the top covering of the float are, from left to right, M. Quinlan, S. Ryder, H. Clark, E. Borovac, S. Hiser, J. Hardick, J. Flipiak and M. Cook.



Mike and Whitey bolt frame in place while Sheila gets ready to pass another bolt.





you own it than if you rent it, the same goes how farmers take care of their own soil.

6. Because Prudential Insurance Company already here bought 33,000 acres of our Nebraska farmland last year, this is more than all the land in the State of Rhode Island.
7. Because Prudential Insurance Company says they have a fund of over \$100,000,000 they are going to spend every year buying farmland in the United States. Since most of our neighboring states stop them from buying land, much of this money will be spent buying our farmland.
8. Because large corporations don't return profit to the state; they send the profit to the corporate headquarters in other states.
9. Because we don't want our state to be For Sale to the highest bidder. These giant corporations say they are going to spend \$500,000 to defeat our Initiative. Let's prove to them Nebraska is not For Sale!!!
10. Because if when this passes it will be one more concrete example of what can happen if farmers and laborers work together.



## Taking an Afternoon Break



## Union Builds Labor Day Parade Float

OMAHA—The membership of Local Union 1974 was well represented at the Septemberfest parade held in downtown Omaha Labor Day weekend. Passing in review for all people in labor was the pride of Local Union 1974, the Union Float.

To meet the parade deadline, over 200 man hours of labor went into the 1982 edition of the union float.

Contributing their time to the successful construction of the float was Local Union 1974 President Michael D. Quinlan, Vice-President Whitney Clark, Financial Secretary Jim Hardick, Executive Board Officer Marie Cook, Union Representative Jim Filipiak, Sany Ryder and Union Members Sheila Hiser and Edie Borovac.

Business contributors to the

Local Union 1974 float were Milard Lumber, Baker's Food Store, Hinky Dinky and Ricky Patama.

The float was assembled in two stages. The initial construction took place about two weeks before the parade. At this point, the rough outline of the finished product was drawn up, preliminary construction was built and assembled, and then everything was put together on the day of the parade.

On parade day, final assembly of the float started in the early morning hours of the parade. All the decorations were set in by hand and the float was ready for the grand march through the city. It was a job well done by all those in our union who contributed their time, in order to see that Local Union 1974 was well represented on Labor Day.

## Election Sense

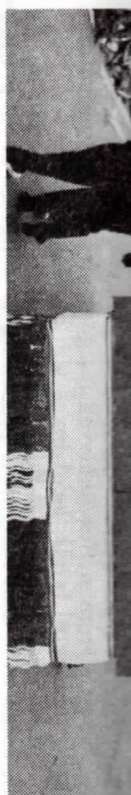
Election year, November 2, 1982, will be crucial for our members and their families. Workers and families who say they are better off this election year than past election years are close to zero.

Your vote November 2 can make a difference in the outcome of the election. Our union has endorsed the candidacies of Bob Kerrey for Governor and Don McGinley for Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska.

Bob Kerrey, a 39-year-old businessman and Congressional Medal of Honor winner, embodies the qualities our union wants in a Governor. He has the ideas, ability and commitment to move this state forward in the right direction.

Don McGinley has a proven record for workers over his years in public life. He was elected to the Legislature in 1954 and served three terms. In 1959-60, he served as U.S. Representative in Congress from the old Fourth District. He also served as a judge on the Commission of Industrial Relations. With his variety of experience he makes an excellent teammate with Bob Kerrey for Governor.

Kerrey and McGinley need our support to work and vote for them on November 2.



## End of Parade

## Editorial

The next time you cash your paycheck and feel you're very thankful it is not an unemployment check, ask yourself: Is today's politics tomorrow's future?

We, who are still cashing payroll checks, are the lucky ones; but right now, a lot of our members and our families are hurting because of the recession — from layoffs or shortened hours. And we're all victims of sky-high interest rates.

What's happening to you and me is happening to working people all over the country. Unemployment is at its highest level in 42 years. Nobody, especially you and I, can be certain his or her job will still be here tomorrow.

This current recession is a direct result of programs proposed by President Reagan and steamrolled with a line of party bull through a Republican-controlled Congress.

In this short space, we can't talk about all members of Congress, but one member of Congress who has shafted you and me all the way was our own shifty Representative Hal Daub. He's been a cheerleader for Big Oil, a cajoiler for the corporations, a gadfly for the wealthy individuals . . . but not for the people.

Hal Daub has raised his voice and cast his votes for all the programs that killed jobs and reduced job safety protections, deprived needy people of nutrition and health assistance, cut unemployment compensation, and maintained high interest rates.

Congressman Daub has got to go November 2. He seeks our help for re-election. He hasn't earned it.

You and I have a choice November 2 . . . a good one.

Our union has endorsed Dick Fellman for the U.S. House. Fellman is on record to oppose recession-deepening programs and supports policies that help you and me, our members and our families.

We have a chance to replace a foe with a friend. All we have to do is get and vote for Dick Fellman.

You and I can protect our job . . . our family . . . our union.

On November 2, vote for tomorrow's future . . . vote for Dick Fellman for the U.S. House.

You won't be sorry.

—D.M.W.

## Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help the union's political candidates between now and Election Day. If you have the time and would like to volunteer to help both gubernatorial candidate Bob Kerrey or Second Congressional candidate Dick Fellman, contact the union's COPE Committee or the union representative in your area. Your help is needed.





## Corporate Run

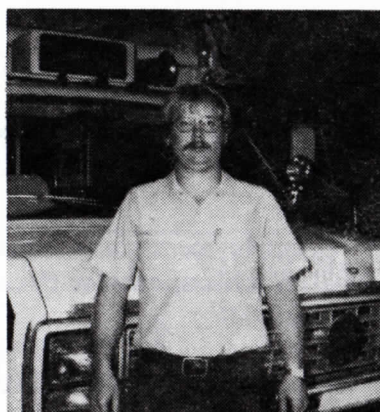
Nobody is a loser at the Corporate Run. From left to right are Bill Romer, Dept. 361; Jerry Odell, Dept. 445; Don Wiczorski, Dept. 251; Duane Lockhart, Dept. 251; Ben Garcia, Dept. 437, and Lanny Weakland, Dept. 251.



## Cormorant lake Fished Out?

Your local union editor came across this photo sent to me by an ancient Cree Indian chieftain who said in his accompanying letter "that nobody in the tribe had ever seen anglers who could fish so good but couldn't walk without staggering."

"These Nebraska nimrods took a ton of northerns out of our holy waters," said Chief Woe-Be-Gone, "and left an ample supply of returnable beer bottles for the tribe to cash in. We elders in the tribe could never understand how these fellows from south-of-the-border could fish with such expertise while living on only fire water. It's the only time we have ever seen the white man with such red, bloodshot eyes."



## Underwood Spotlight

This month the Short Circuit spotlights a union member from the Underwood Local Union 1974-1 for his dedicated civic duty. The name of this man is Greg Clausen.

Greg has 10 years of service with the Bell System by way of Northwestern Bell and Western Electric.

Greg has been a member of the Underwood Volunteer Fire Department for nine years. During that time, he held positions of captain and deputy chief. While with the volunteer fire department, Greg help organize the Rescue Squad which started in 1976.

Besides his fire duties, Greg is also a current member of the Board of Directors for Iowa Western Community College, a past member of the Underwood Jaycees, Chairman Underwood Planning Board, and city electrical inspector.

Greg does find time for hobbies when he has spare time. He likes to hunt, fish, and his latest is amateur radio. Currently his is building a 50-foot tower so they can receive messages from members of the Armed Forces.

Greg is married. He and his wife Arla, have two children, a son and a daughter.

## Russ Rudeen



Russ Rudeen is one of those quiet, unassuming union representatives who has been actively involved with the union for the last 25 years.

Russ was the first treasurer elected when Local Union 1974 started up a quarter of a century ago. After that term as treasurer, Russ worked as a union steward until he was appointed as sergeant-at-arms 15 years ago.

Aside from his sergeant-at-arms duties for Local Union 1974, Russ serves as election judge for all official elections held by the local union.

"I think the union elections are the fun part of my job with the union," says Russ. "From the time I have the candidates' names and make sure they are printed up correctly with the printer, I'm rushed to get the election headquarters set up."

"It gets hectic setting up the ballot boxes and assigning the election helpers and callers to their respective shifts," reviewed Russ, "but then the pace slows down once the election starts. Then, all I do is make sure everyone who votes is a union member and keep a close eye on the ballot box."

"The election is nice because it gives me an opportunity to see all my friends who come out to vote."

And, Russ truly has a lot of friends in the union and at Western Electric. Russ has been with Western Electric 25 years. He started downtown at the Six-

## Pro Football Loss Bemoaned by Whiz

(Editor's Note: The following article was written just before the second week of the NFL strike. If when you are reading this the NFL strike is still in effect, the 1982 NFL season will be on the scrapheap and Arnie Whiznuts will be quietly dying on the few Sundays left in 1982. If by chance the strike is over, you can rejoice with Whiz, whose crocodile tears will have long since dried to smiles.)

"There is no life after pro football," cried a remorseful Whiz as he entered the Short Circuit newsroom carrying a small casket filled with NFL stats. "I always said that betting on college football is for amateurs; and when the only game in town is out on strike, it just confirms my opinion. Without the pros, there is no Sunday — in fact no weekend."

"I'm off to my usual jugular start," grimaced Whiz as he fumbled through his rumpled trouser pockets for a wrinkled copy of the latest line. My best bets this year have been pure arsenic to my billfold. I haven't been able to pick a winner all year. For starters, I thought Big Red would eat lion stew when they played Penn State; instead, my bankroll was slow cooked and my prognosticating brain was fried."

"Fortunately for losers, there's always another weekend to recoup my misplayed greenbacks," smiled Whiz as his eyes danced over the schedule of upcoming games. "I just want some action to keep my brain from going to seed."

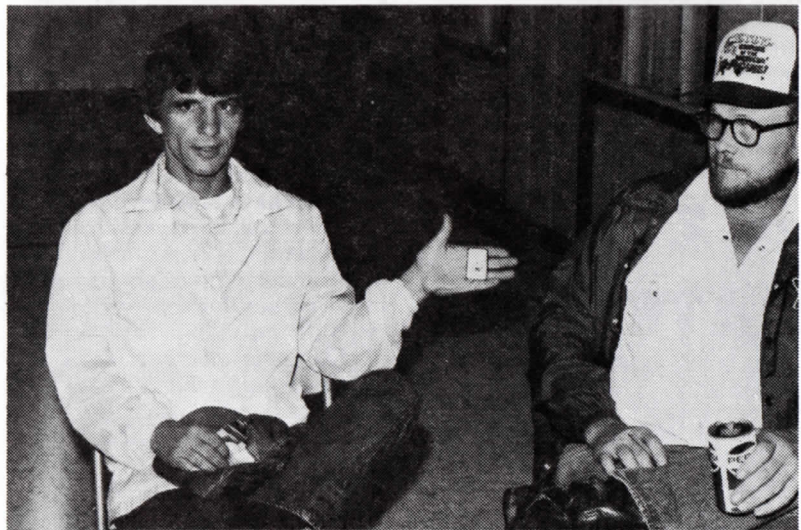
### Upcoming Weekend Bankroll Busters

N.C. State over N. Carolina — Wolfpack wounds crippled Tarheels.

Illinois over Ohio State —



only time we have ever seen the white man with such red, bloodshot eyes."



## Banner Year for Irish

Don Trimble shows off his cigarette lighter with the Notre Dame emblem on the side. Looking on is Bruce Kriger.

"Since I picked this up in South Bend, everybody wants to use it to light their smokes," said Don, "and I don't blame them. Even fire adds a little bit of Irish magic to it when well placed at the end of a cigarette or cigar."

"I'm really more proud of the Fighting Irish this year; after all, they are off to a great start," smiles Irish rooter Don. "We didn't put our expectations as high as some teams, so if we lose, it won't be a big disappointment. A lot of people around here couldn't handle Nebraska losing to Penn State. After the loss, the Big Red fans that I know were glad to see N.U. get back to their patsy Big Eight schedule. And it's like I tell people all the time; Osborne is at his coaching best against inferior, chump teams from the Big Eight."

## Women's Golf Outing

By Marlene Wilson and Marie Cook

The Women's Golf Outing was held on September 25 and a great time was had by all. Donations were given by Ray Lonowski of Phoenix Mutual Insurance Company, Ellis Jonswold of Consolidated Insurance Company, Inc., Ken's Flowers, Millard Bank, Commercial Federal, Bill's Corner Bar, W.P.'s Lounge, Machinists Union, Bob Alberts, Whitey Clark, Marie Cook, Dee Garcia, Marlene Wilson, Mike Quinlan and State AFL-CIO.

Some of the prizes were won by Pat Oliver, Dixie Szertwitis, Liz Miller, Barb Bull, Pam Raabe, Karen Moore, Peg Schwenck and Inez Dixon.

Joan Herre and Bev. Clark won the big door prize of a Polaroid camera.

We thank all who participated and donated.

members of the Armed Forces. Greg is married. He and his wife Arla, have two children, a son and a daughter.

Keep up the good work, Greg!

## BE AMERICAN VOTE NOVEMBER 2ND

## A Message from Nebraska MDA Chairman Clark

As everyone in the union membership knows, I was again appointed Labor Chairman for the Muscular Dystrophy Association for the 1982 drive.

Considering the nation's economy for the last two years, serving as Nebraska MDA Chairman was especially difficult this year. As you all realize, it is difficult to ask someone to support any charity when, with the current state of the economy, they might say charity begins at home. But as in the past, you, the employees of Western Electric, came through — twelve hundred dollars worth.

friends in the union and at Western Electric. Russ has been with Western Electric 25 years. He started downtown at the Sixteenth and Cuming location. He was a former tester on every job he has been at with Western Electric, and presently works as a monitor man in Department 251.

Russ has been married 35 years, and he and his wife, Evelyn, have three children and three grandchildren.

At this time I would like to thank you who gave, and the representatives who help collect. I would like to give a special thanks to Debbie, who really worked very hard to make the Muscular Dystrophy drive a success at Western Electric.

(Editor's Note: It seems not only does Vice-President Clark appreciate the membership's contribution to MDA, but the following letter of commendation from the Muscular Dystrophy Association shows their appreciation for him.)

## Thanks from MDA

Dear Whitey:

Thank you — because of your unselfish giving the 1982 Jerry Lewis Extra Special Special was a milestone for the Greater Nebraska Chapter of the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Through the hardest of economic times, the support and generosity of the people of Nebraska was outstanding.

While nationally and locally phoned-in pledges were slightly lower than the previous years, the willingness of corporate sponsors to actively support the Association was terrific and the involvement of the "little guy" was nothing short of amazing. To you and to your key people, the MDA staff in Nebraska would like to thank you for your fine support in the 1982 campaign. You can be proud of the MDA program in Nebraska and take personal pride in the fact that you helped build it.

Once again on behalf of the people we serve, thank you for all of your support and continued support — you made it an EXTRA SPECIAL SPECIAL year.

Best Regards,  
Troy Florance  
District Director

Wolfpack wounds crippled Tarheels.

Illinois over Ohio State — Buckeyes blinded by Illini pass attack.

Stanford over USC — Elway sparkles, Trojans sputter.

Vanderbilt over Georgia — Commodores commandeer Hershel Walker.

Texas Tech over Rice — Tech slow-cooks Rice.

Old Miss and TCU spend the better half of Saturday playing to a 7-7 tie.

Nebraska over Kansas State — Big Red Corn-Kats put the shaft to Wildcats and leave them cat-shafted.

## Homeowners and Renters Insurance

By Whitey Clark  
Vice-President

In addition to the low-cost automobile insurance that has been offered to most Local Union 1974 members for some time now, we have been negotiating with United Security Insurance Company in order to offer the membership additional low-cost coverage as Group Homeowners and Group Renters insurance.

We are pleased to announce at this time that we are now able to offer members of IBEW Local 1974 Homeowners and Renters insurance at a substantial savings.

The premiums for this valuable benefit are paid through the negotiated IBEW 1974 weekly payroll deduction.

In order to find out more about this special group plan, call Ellis or Dave Jonswold at 330-5680 for a cost comparison with your present insurance rates.

**Get Involved!**  
**Attend Union Meetings**



## **The Impact of Reaganomics**

# **Damage Report—Autumn '82**

**A look at the economic landscape 20 months into the presidency of Ronald Reagan and one month before Solidarity Day II, election day, November 2.**

- ▶ Unemployment . . . in 10 percent range, highest in more than 40 years.
- ▶ Entire industries suffering depression-level joblessness; no industry untouched by its spreading epidemic.
- ▶ More individuals jobless now than at height of Great Depression.
- ▶ 11 million out of work, three million more than when President Reagan took office.
- ▶ An additional 1.4 million long-term unemployed, "discouraged" workers who've given up job search in despair.
- ▶ Another 3.1 million relegated to part-time jobs who want and need full-time work.
- ▶ "Real" unemployment 13 percent-plus . . . (includes "discouraged" and involuntary part-time, neither of whom figure in "official" government unemployment).
- ▶ Throughout "Reaganomics Recession," around the clock, every single hour of every day, every week . . . 300 American workers thrown off the job.
- ▶ Allowing two feet of standing room for every jobless American, a line starting at Reagan White House will stretch to Reagan ranch near coast of California and double back across country to Illinois, more than 4,100 miles.

▶ Unemployment comp exhausted for more than 2.5 million jobless; another three million expected to run out in 1983.

▶ Food stamps and Medicaid denied or reduced for hundreds of thousands of needy Americans.

▶ Thousands of young Americans—many of them the children of working people—forced to discontinue, or unable to begin, their college education because of federal loan slashes.

▶ Millions of working poor—3.5-4 million of them—denied supplemental welfare benefits that, together with their small earnings, enabled them to subsist.

▶ More than 150,000 medically disabled . . . with doctors' certificates to prove it . . . robbed of their disability benefits and told to go out and get a job.

▶ Business failures at the highest level since 1932 . . . 24,000 expected this year alone.

▶ Mortgage foreclosures at post-1930s highs. More than 5.5 percent of all mortgages, representing 1.5 million home-owners, in default. Half of these expected to lose their homes.

▶ Tens of thousands of family farmers, crushed by high interest rates, forced from their land.

▶ Industrial production down; non-farm payroll employment down; real personal income static, expected down; business sales down; housing permits down; new orders for consumer goods and materials down.

## **Dependent Classifications**

By Mary Ellen Kobielski

It has been brought to my attention, since I'm on the Benefits Committee, that a lot of our union members haven't kept up on their children's dependent classification. This is especially true in the student dependent area.

The following is a brief explanation from the book most of us threw away — the Western Electric Medical Expense Plan:

**Dependent** means a family member who qualifies for the protection provided by the Plan. Coverage is made available to you:

**Class I Dependents** — your spouse and your unmarried children until the end of the year in which they reach age 19, or until the end of the year in which they reach 23 if full-time students, or any unmarried child, regardless of age, who is physically or mentally handicapped and fully dependent on you for support. Children include your own children, legally adopted children, and if they live with you, stepchildren or children for whom you or your spouse is legal guardian, and any other unrelated unmarried children whom you support and who permanently live with you in a parent-child relationship.

**Class II Dependents** — your unmarried children who are not Class I dependents, your unmarried grandchildren, your brothers and sisters, and the parents and grandparents of you and your spouse, if they have lived with you or in a household provided by you in the vicinity for at least six months. In addition, to qualify for coverage, the total income of a Class II dependent — not counting any support you



California and other such as county to miles, more than 4,100 miles.

► Projections that before 1982 ends, one-fourth of the entire U.S. workforce—some 30 million workers—will suffer an episode of joblessness (an “episode” averages 14-16 weeks).

down, new orders for consumer goods and materials down.

► Initial claims for unemployment compensation up to highest levels in months.

► Persons and families living in poverty up.

## Turn It Around on Solidarity Day II... Nov. 2

# VOTE FOR COPE-BACKED CANDIDATES

### Grievance Guide

#### Scurrilous Scribbles

An employer improperly discharged a worker who painted obscene comments on a stall in the workers' washroom, arbiter Linda Klein rules.

After finding a vulgar inscription about him written on the walls of a washroom stall, a worker received permission from his supervisor to paint over the comments. The next day, a friend of the worker saw an employee enter the same stall with a cup of paint and a paint brush. Both the worker and his friend entered the washroom and recognized the employer's boots at the bottom of the stall. Later on, the worker returned to the stall, found several freshly painted obscene statements, and learned from janitors that they had seen the employee leave the stall with a cup and paint brush in his hands. The worker reported the incident to management, who subsequently terminated the employee for damaging company property. Contending that the company had failed to prove the employee was guilty of painting derogatory comments on the walls, the union argued that management's evidence was “insufficient” because “a person cannot be identified by his shoes alone.”

The arbiter finds that the “preponderance” of evidence establishes that the employee was “responsible” for the obscenities written on the walls of the washroom stall. However, the employee's offense was “not directly related to the company's product,” the arbitrator decides, nor did it amount to the “heinous crime” of physical damage to company property. Holding that the discharge was “excessive” and “unduly harsh” for an offense that was “primarily a behavioral problem,” the arbiter concludes that the worker should be reinstated without back pay. (*Prototype Development, Inc., and Machinists*, 78 LA 652)

#### Radio Ruckus

An employer improperly discharged a bus driver for pulling a knife on a passenger in self-defense, arbitrator Henry L. Sisk decides.

After boarding a bus, a passenger played his radio so loudly that the driver was forced to stop the bus twice and request him to turn the

volume down or use earphones. When the noise persisted, the driver stopped again, walked to the rear of the bus where the passenger was seated, and repeated his request. At this point, the passenger raised the radio as if to strike the driver, so the driver pulled a pocketknife, laid the blade on the passenger's shirt collar, and told him to be quiet. The passenger sat down and turned the radio off, but later got off the bus and reported the incident to the employer. Management subsequently terminated the driver, claiming that it could not tolerate employees' using “deadly force” against a passenger, rather than established emergency procedures.

While agreeing with the employer that there were “alternative courses of action” that the driver did not use, the arbiter observes that the employee had “reasonable grounds” for concluding that the passenger was seriously threatening to strike him with the heavy radio. Not only was the driver's route “prone to trouble and crime,” the arbiter notes, but the driver recently had been “physically threatened” by another radio-playing passenger. In view of the driver's “satisfactory” record, the arbitrator rules, he should be reinstated but without back pay. (*Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris Co. and Transport Workers*, 78 LA 1127)

## Big Bucks for Big Oil

Big bucks for big oil show up in PAC reports.

The 183 political committees formed by the oil and gas industries had already kicked in \$3,074,882 to favored candidates as of May 31 of this year. They had an additional \$1,245,076 on hand and have doubtless collected a bundle more.

They've already put \$77,615 into the re-election campaign of Senator Orrin Hatch (Utah), chairman of the Senate Labor Committee, and \$66,750 has gone to Representative Phil Gramm (Texas), a leader of the so-called “Boll Weevils” in the House, a group of Reagan-supporting Democrats.

to qualify for coverage, the total income of a Class II dependent—not counting any support you provide—must be less than \$6,000 a year from all sources including Social Security.

**A Sponsored Child**—an unmarried child, age 19 or older who is not a full-time student. You can sponsor such a child for coverage until the end of the year in which he or she reaches age 23, whether the child resides with you or not and regardless of how much income he or she is receiving. You pay for this coverage—the full individual rate charged by the insurance carrier—and you must apply for it by contacting your benefit office.

### Whatever Happened to . . . ?

Whatever happened to President Reagan's prophecy in presenting his original budget on February 18, 1981, a month after taking office?

He specifically predicted rapid economic growth and a swift and huge decline in the federal budget deficit. He told the country that:

- In fiscal 1982, the budget deficit would be \$45 billion.

- In fiscal 1983, the budget deficit would be \$22.8 billion.

- In fiscal 1984, the budget would be balanced.

- In fiscal 1985, Reaganomics would create a budget surplus of \$5.89 billion.

To answer the question, “whatever happened to . . .,” here's President Reagan August 12, 1982: “We warned you in the beginning that there would be no instant miracles.”

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### Your Vote Does Count!

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